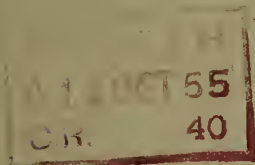


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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1954

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,  
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector.

E. A. MORGAN,  
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

(c) District Sanitary Inspectors.

B. J. DAVIES,  
C.R.S.I.

W. G. G. LEWIS,  
A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(1/1/54 to 30/4/54).

R. N. SPEIRS,  
M.R.San.A., M.S.I.A.  
(1/10/54 to 31/12/54).

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954. For the first three months of the year my predecessor, Dr. M. A. Dawson, was Medical Officer of Health and I was appointed, following her resignation, from 1st April, 1954.

Vital Statistics: There has been a small increase in the estimated population. The Standardised Birth Rate (19.33) is the highest recorded for the past five years. The Infant Mortality Rate (20.53) compares favourably with that for England and Wales (25.5). Mention was made in my report for 1953 of the effect caused by the Registrar General's new rules for the registration of deaths occurring in Stow Lodge Hospital. This matter has been taken up with the Registrar General by this Rural District Council, but for the year under consideration, 1954, all deaths occurring in Stow Lodge Hospital, whether the persons concerned had previously lived in Gipping District or not, have been registered in Gipping Rural District. This has had the effect of increasing the Death Rate figure and as in last year I have calculated an approximate figure of what the Death Rate might be expected to be if deaths at Stow Lodge had been transferred out, where appropriate, as in the years prior to 1953. If it is assumed that 78% of the deaths in Stow Lodge relate to persons not previously resident in Gipping Rural District the revised Crude Death Rate would be 10.51 and the Standardised Death Rate 9.1 per 1,000 population.

Causes of Death: There have been no deaths during the year from Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, or Pregnancy and Childbirth. It is also a matter for great satisfaction to record that for the first time in the history of Gipping Rural District (since its formation in 1934) there have been no deaths from Tuberculosis. There has been a small decrease in the number of deaths from Cancer. In view of the relatively small numbers involved it is impossible to state whether this is a true decrease or merely a yearly fluctuation.

If a true decrease it may be partly due to earlier diagnosis and treatment. Many cases of this disease can be successfully treated if they are seen in the early stages before the trouble has become deep seated. Anyone who notices a persistent sore or lump, or bleeding should seek medical advice without delay. Not everyone with one of these symptoms will be suffering from Cancer, but it is wisest to make sure. The earlier a case of Cancer is discovered and treated the better the chances of recovery. With this disease it is fatal, in every sense of the word, to ignore the warning signs and to leave things to take their course.

Infectious Diseases: Five cases of Poliomyelitis occurred. Three of these were notified during the beginning of the year and two during September. Immediate measures were taken by the staff of the Public Health Department to attempt to prevent the spread of the outbreaks. Special investigations into all these cases were also carried out in collaboration with the Medical Research Council.

There were six cases of Food Poisoning. In two instances single cases occurred. In one of these the cause was unknown and in the other Salmonella organisms were responsible. The remaining four cases were confined to members of two families. Salmonella organisms were responsible in both these latter outbreaks. A number of cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the latter half of the year. Now that immunisation against this disease has become a more reliable procedure we may see a reduction in the number of cases occurring in very young children (which is the period in life in which Whooping Cough is most dangerous). For the third year in succession no case of Diphtheria was notified. This is due to Diphtheria Immunisation, and in order that the district may continue to be free from this disease it is essential for all parents to have their children immunised, if possible during the first year of life. A child who is ill with Diphtheria undergoes much suffering and may die. All this can be prevented by immunisation.

Tuberculosis: The battle against Tuberculosis is being won. For the first time in twenty years there were no deaths from this disease in the District. The discovery of new drugs and new methods of treatment and diagnosis have played a large part in the fight, but that is only half the story. Pockets of the disease still remain hidden and they cannot be discovered and stamped out without the help of the man in the street. Extensive "mopping up" operations remain to be carried out and for these the assistance and co-operation of almost every citizen will be required. What sort of help can the ordinary person give? There are various ways. For instance, people can make a special effort to attend for Mass X Ray, if possible once a year, when the Unit is operating in the area. They can give their consent for their children to have the special diagnostic Skin Tests when these are being carried out. They can help by coming forward for X Ray when they have previously been in contact with a newly



discovered case of Tuberculosis. Patients who have the disease can help by carrying out the instructions for the prevention of infection given them by their doctors.

Water Supplies: Gipping Rural District Council is endeavouring to press on with its schemes for providing a wholesome supply of water to the district. The restraining hand of 'those set in authority over us' often makes progress disappointingly slow and it will be seen from figures in this report that only 104 properties had mains water laid on during 1954.

Examination of the various water analysis reports made during the year shows that we are not unreasonable in our desire to carry out our statutory obligations as laid down in the Public Health Act, 1936 (namely to provide a supply of water, as is reasonably practicable, to every part of the district in which danger to health arises from the insufficiency or unwholesomeness of the existing supply...). Details of these bacterial analyses show that of the 26 first samples taken from private shallow wells 21 were unsatisfactory (indeed four of these 21 samples are described as 'dreadful'). Very many people in Gipping Rural District are dependant on private shallow wells for their water supply. It is a disquieting thought that 84% of these wells probably have water which is bacteriologically unsatisfactory. It is also surely an unassailable reason that we should be allowed to carry out our Mains Water Schemes with all possible expediency.

Sewage Schemes for various parts of the District are in different stages of development. Some are under construction, work will shortly be commenced on others, and yet more remain as plans on the drawing board. Sewage schemes in villages where there is a high density of population are an urgent necessity and their absence constitutes a menace to health.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for all the encouragement and support they have given me.

I am also most grateful to the staff of the Public Health Department, both to the Sanitary Inspectors and to Mr. Adams, for their enthusiasm, co-operation, and ready acceptance of any task however dull or unpleasant that had to be carried out in the day to day work of the Department. The Officers and other members of the staff of the Council have also been most helpful on various occasions.

The success of the work of a Health Department may be measured in some degree by what is not reported. This is because its main object in life is to prevent unpleasant things, such as epidemics, from happening. Each week the Registrar General reports with almost monotonous regularity "no cases of Plague, Cholera, Typhus" and usually "no Smallpox". This happy state of

affairs has not come about by chance. There is no Plague because amongst other things an army of Port Health Officers keep constant watch to prevent the arrival off ships of plague infested rats, and wage a relentless war against rats in docks and ships. There is no Cholera (and the last epidemic occurred in this country as recently as 1866) because Health Legislation has brought about the provision of pure water and proper sewage disposal in large towns, and Port Health Officers look for suspected cases from incoming ships. There is no Typhus (and 3,000 people died of it annually in this country less than a hundred years ago) because general standards of hygiene have been gradually and painstakingly raised. Smallpox is becoming a rarity because immediately a case is diagnosed every available preventative measure is brought to bear to limit the spread of infection. Typhoid and Paratyphoid are uncommon because constant watch is kept for carriers and cases; and water and food supplies are under continuous supervision. So it will be in the future with other diseases. Most preventive work is unspectacular and goes on behind the scenes. It is no less important because of that. The price of freedom, and this includes freedom from disease, is eternal vigilance. The suppression of some diseases does not mean that we can relax, but rather that we must redouble our efforts.

In the words of Jeremy Taylor "...we have a great work to do, many enemies to conquer, many evils to prevent, many difficulties to be mastered, many necessities to serve, much good to do, many diseases to cure..."

I am,

Yours faithfully,

*K. M. Harding*

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	78,464 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)					19,410
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	6,161
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£81,912
Sum represented by a Penny Rate				...	£329

## BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	178	163	341
Legitimate	170	154	324
Illegitimate...	8	9	17

## STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	6	1	7
Legitimate	6	1	7
Illegitimate...	-	-	-

## LIVE BIRTH RATE

Crude birth rate per 1,000 population...	...	17.57
Comparability factor..	...	1.10
Standardised Birth rate	...	19.33
Birth rate England and Wales...	...	15.2

Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	20.11
Stillbirth rate England and Wales	...	24.0

## INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	3	4	7
Legitimate...	2	4	6
Illegitimate.	1	-	1

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	20.53
Infant mortality rate England and Wales	...	25.5

Causes of deaths of infants under one year of age

Prematurity..	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Septicaemia..	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:-

				<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	...	...	3	2	5
Legitimate...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate.	...	...	...	1	-	1

DEATHS

All causes	Total	274
	Male	162
	Female	112

Crude death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	14.17
Comparability factor..	...	0.87
Standardised death rate	...	12.33
Death rate England and Wales...	...	11.3

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Estimated Population	18,960	19,540	20,510	19,120	19,280	19,410
Live Births	332	331	334	311	292	341
Crude Birth Rate	17.5	16.9	16.3	16.3	15.1	17.57
Standardised Birth Rate	-	18.4	17.6	17.6	16.3	19.33
Total Infant Deaths (under one year)	10	4	9	13	3	7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	30.1	12.1	26.9	41.8	15.6	20.53
Total Deaths	240	211	230	196	254	274
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.6	10.8	11.2	10.3	13.2	14.17
Standardised Death Rate	-	9.4	9.6	8.9	11.4	12.33



PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING PAST SIX YEARS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Diseases of Cardial and circulatory systems (including Cerebral Haemorrhage)	136	113	124	100	126	163
Cancer	26	28	30	22	53	44
Diseases of Respiratory system (excluding Tuberculosis)	15	15	21	10	22	16
Suicide and other violent causes	9	7	15	11	12	10
Tuberculosis	8	8	3	4	3	nil

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES)

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1954</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1953</u>
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	nil	2
2. Tuberculosis - Other	-	-	nil	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	nil	2
4. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	-	2	1
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
6. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
7. Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	5	2	7	3
8. Malignant Neoplasm - lung, bronchus	5	2	7	14
9. Malignant Neoplasm - breast	-	2	2	4
10. Malignant Neoplasm - uterus	-	2	2	nil
11. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	12	26	32
12. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	nil	1
13. Diabetes	3	-	3	5

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1954</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1953</u>
14. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	22	38	26
15. Coronary disease, Angina	17	10	27	20
16. Hypertension with heart disease	7	1	8	3
17. Other heart disease	42	28	70	65
18. Other circulatory disease	13	7	20	12
19. Influenza	-	2	2	4
20. Pneumonia	2	4	6	14
21. Bronchitis	8	-	8	6
22. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2	2
23. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	-	2	1
24. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1	1
25. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2	2	2
26. Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	4	1
27. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-	-
28. Congenital Malformations	1	1	2	-
29. Other defined and ill defined diseases	13	10	23	20
30. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2	2
31. All other accidents	3	3	6	7
32. Suicide	2	-	2	3
	<hr/>			
Totals	162	112	274	254
	<hr/>			

#### CANCER DEATH RATE

Gipping Rural District    2.3 per 1,000 population  
 East Suffolk County       2.1    "       "       "

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1954

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	2	-	2	1	2	1	2	3	-	14
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	12	18	10	15	6	68
Measles	2	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	8
Totals	6	1	5	4	6	5	8	15	24	13	18	6	111

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1954.

Disease	Age in years									Total
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65+	
Scarlet Fever	-	3	-	10	-	1	-	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	2	12	20	32	1	1	-	-	-	68
Measles	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	6
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	6
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	4
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	3	-	3	1	1	-	8
Totals	4	16	20	50	4	8	4	3	2	111



# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE TOTALS FOR PAST SIX YEARS

Disease	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever	12	19	7	34	14	14
Whooping Cough	65	76	173	32	26	68
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	18	281	151	144	389	6
Acute Pneumonia	12	12	19	9	11	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	2	1
Poliomyelitis	4	3	1	3	1	5
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	4	21	1	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	1	3	2	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	7	2	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	3	-	6
Erysipelas	2	4	3	3	2	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	6	11	20	1	8

## TUBERCULOSIS

### (1) New cases notified:

Pulmonary (Lungs)     ...     ...     2 Males     2 Females

Non-Pulmonary (Glands, bones,  
                                 joints etc.,) ...     1 Male     2 Females

(2) Ages of new cases:

Pulmonary:        Males    7; 32.                Females    26; 53.

Non-Pulmonary: Males    31.                Females    16; 23.

(3) Occupations of new cases:

Schoolchild 1; Nursemaid 1; Housewife 2; Factory  
Worker 1; Director 1; H.M.Forces 1.

(4) Inward Transfers:    5.

Pulmonary:        Males    1.        Females    4.

(5) Cases crossed off register as recovered during the year.

Pulmonary:        Males    2.        Females    2.

Non-Pulmonary:    Males    1.        Females    nil.

(6) Died during the year:

Pulmonary:        Females    1.

(7) Outward Transfers:

Pulmonary:        Males    1.        Females    6.

(8) Cases on register at end of year:

Pulmonary:        Males    38        Females    32.

Non-Pulmonary:    Males    18        Females    20.

(9) Notification rates:

Pulmonary:	Gipping R.D.	0.21	per	1,000	population
	East Suffolk	0.43	"	"	"
Non-Pulmonary	Gipping R.D.	0.15	"	"	"
	East Suffolk	0.17	"	"	"
Combined Rate	Gipping R.D.	0.36	"	"	"
	East Suffolk	0.60	"	"	"

(10) Statistics for past six years:

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Primary Notifications	20	14	21	13	13	7
Transfers In	1	2	3	4	11	5
Notification Rate per 1,000 population	1.05	.71	1.02	.68	.67	.36
Deaths	8	8	3	4	3	nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.40	.40	.15	.20	.15	nil

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Figures for diphtheria immunisation are no longer available as percentage of children in the area but the actual figures are as follows. (Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health).

- (1) Number of children immunised in 1954 ... 237
- (2) Number of children receiving booster treatment  
in 1954 196

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Act in 1954.

WELL WATER CYANOSIS

Number of samples taken in 1954.....	57
Number considered safe.....	32
" " doubtful.....	16
" " unsafe.....	6
" " dangerous.....	3

In all cases where the supply was not reported as safe the persons concerned were advised to obtain an alternative supply.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### (A) Public Supplies

1. Mains water supplied to this district by other Local Authorities (Ipswich County Borough and Thedwastre Rural District) were found on bacteriological analysis to be satisfactory.
2. Public Bore Wells: The majority of these supplies were bacteriologically satisfactory on first analysis. Those wells yeilding water which was unsatisfactory on first analysis gave satisfactory samples after treatment had been given.
3. Public Deep Wells: Four samples were bacteriologically satisfactory. Only one sample was unsatisfactory. Treatment was subsequently given.
4. Public Shallow Wells: Eight samples were taken. Five of these were bacteriologically satisfactory and three were unsatisfactory. One of the wells yeilding an unsatisfactory supply has now been replaced by a piped mains supply. The two other wells providing an unsatisfactory supply have received treatment, but they are not really a reliable source of supply.

### (B) Private Supplies

1. Bore Wells: Of 30 bacteriological samples 24 were satisfactory and six were unsatisfactory. Two of the latter were followed subsequently by satisfactory samples and four are still being followed up.

One sample which was sent for chemical analysis was satisfactory.

2. Deep Wells: 8 bacteriological samples were taken. Five of these were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.
3. Shallow Wells: 26 first samples were taken. 21 of these were unsatisfactory, only five were satisfactory. Subsequent tests showed that 2 of the samples from unsatisfactory supplies became satisfactory.

- (C) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is given below according to parish distribution. (Figures kindly supplied by Mr. E. A. Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector).

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from Standpipes</u>
Ashbocking	18	28
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	40	-



<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from standpipes</u>
Barham	13	16
Battisford	6	-
Bramford	367	-
Buxhall	5	6
Combs	2	-
Creeping St. Mary	34	32
Crowfield	36	33
Debenham	182	65
Framsden	17	3
Gosbeck	25	12
Gt. Bricett	15	16
Gt. Finborough	6	17
Haughley	207	34
Hemingstone	1	3
Henley	10	9
Mickfield	17	18
Pettaugh	18	24
Ringshall	15	-
Stonham Aspal	63	65
Stonham Earl	10	10
Stonham Parva	42	53
Stowupland	279	-
Wetherden	54	2
Winston	37	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1,519	455
	<hr/>	<hr/>

I am indebted to Mr. J. Black, Engineer & Surveyor, for the following two reports:-

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Much preliminary work in connection with the sewerage and sewage disposal systems for the following parishes has been carried out: Bramford, Debenham, Haughley, Needham Market and Stowupland.

The position to date is as follows:-

In course of construction	:	Debenham
Tender approved by Ministry	:	Stowupland
Tenders to be invited shortly	:	Needham Market and Haughley.
In abeyance	:	Bramford

## HOUSING

During the year under review the Housing Statistics for the Rural District were as follows:-

(a) <u>Council Houses.</u>	
Completed	62
Under construction	21
Total completed (post-war)	457
(b) <u>Private Houses (Permanent).</u>	
Completed	17
Under construction	20
Total completed (post-war)	166
(c) <u>Private Houses (Temporary).</u>	
Completed	nil
Under construction	nil
Total completed (post-war)	26

Grand total of Housing Units completed in the post-war period to 31st December, 1954, is therefore 649.

### Action by Sanitary Inspectors under Public Health or Housing Acts.

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	41
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.. ... ..	34
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or the making of demolition or closing orders ... ..	14
Number of notices served requiring the execution of works ... ..	33
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... ..	nil
Number of demolition orders made ... ..	5
Number of Closing orders made.. ... ..	5
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11(3) Housing Act, 1936	3
Number of houses demolished ... ..	2

## BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

By agreement with the East Suffolk County Council, Sanitary Officers of the County Council are responsible for the routine sampling for examination of all milk supplies in this Rural District. In cases in which tubercle bacilli or brucella infection are discovered the Sanitary Officers of Gipping Rural District take further samples at intervals to determine whether the milk is still infected. Restraint notices are, of course, served in cases where infection is found.

Number of samples taken by County Council.....11  
Number found to contain tubercle bacilli.....nil  
Number found to contain brucella organisms.....nil

Number of samples taken by Gipping R.D.C.....12

## FOOD POISONING

### 1. Notifications (corrected) returned to Registrar General.

1st quarter.	2nd quarter.	3rd quarter.	4th quarter.	Total
Nil	2	4	nil	6

### 2. Outbreaks due to identified agents

Total Outbreaks	2	Total Cases	4
-----------------	---	-------------	---

Outbreaks due to:-

(a) Chemical Poisons	...	...	...	nil
(b) Salmonella organisms..	...	...	...	2
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	...	...	...	nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	...	...	...	nil
(e) Other bacteria	...	...	...	nil

### 3. Outbreaks of undiscovered cause

Total Outbreaks	nil	Total cases	nil
-----------------	-----	-------------	-----

### 4. Single Cases

Agent identified	1	(Salmonella Organisms)
Unknown cause	1	
Total	2	

### 5. Outbreaks - Summary of details

Outbreaks were family outbreaks and in neither case was the vehicle of infection identified.

## CLAYDON CEMENT WORKS

The Public Health Department has continued in its efforts to secure a reduction in the amount of dust emitted from these Works. Numerous consultations have been held with the Inspector from the Alkali etc., Division of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

It is a matter for great regret that by the end of 1954 no marked improvement in conditions had occurred, but it is hoped that during 1955 the new dust precipitator will be fulfilling its function.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948.

Number of factories with mechanical power.....	72
Number of factories without mechanical power.....	8
Other premises - electrical stations and building sites.....	20
Number of inspections made.....	62
Number of defects found.....	-

-----oOo-----







12.1.55  
40  
GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1954





GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my eleventh Annual Report on the activities of the Sanitary Department and of some of the work which has been carried out under my supervision.

Unlike some Reports for previous years in which the theme has, at times, appeared to be one of frustrated hope, the keynote of this Report is, or should be, gratification that at long last progress is being made (under the competent control of the Resident Engineer) in the provision of the major scheme for water supply and, in one parish, a scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal. There will, it is hoped, be many occasions in the future when the Council will be able, at the end of its year's work, to look back with pride at the achievements of that twelve months; but, it is safe to say, never with such joy and full realisation as when the "iron curtain" of obstruction and delay was, after unremitting effort, penetrated for the first time.

Increased interest was shown in the scheme of grants for the installation of improvements in existing property and the fact that more were approved in 1954 than had been in the previous four years together, augers well for the future success of the purpose of the Act - to raise the general standard of housing.

Whether it was an act of wisdom to reintroduce private slaughtering at one fell swoop is still a matter of opinion. That the decision had to be implemented within a few months, however, could have created a state of chaos had it not been for the flexibility and sense of responsibility with which the local government service operates so that much of the anticipated difficulties were effectively overcome in due time.

The loss of the services of an able colleague would under any circumstances have been deplored and the departure in April of Mr. W. G. Lewis - who had acted as District Sanitary Inspector

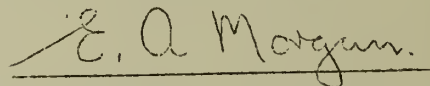
for over three years - certainly aggravated the position in relation to our added responsibilities no less than in connection with the duties he had been undertaking at the time he left us. We were extremely fortunate in his successor - although having to wait over a vital period of five months for the vacancy to be filled. Mr. R. N. Speirs, who came to us from Wadebridge R.D.C., has had a breadth of experience which will be of exceptional benefit to the Department and has already proved himself a worthy colleague.

One can also express sincere thanks to the other members of my Department - especially for the loyal assistance given when we were numerically under-established - as well as to colleagues in other Departments (notably Dr. Dawson and her successor, Dr. Harding) for their co-operation in aspects of our duties which are of mutual concern.

The continued interest and support of the Chairman of Council and of the Chairman of the Public Health & Water Committee, as well as that of other Members of the Council, has been of immense help, and every effort is made to respond to the appreciation which has been shown towards the Department's endeavours to maintain an efficient and satisfactory service.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. A. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing Act Surveys...	...	...	...	35
Housing Act - Applications for Improvement Grant.				175
Other Housing Act inspections..	...	...	...	196
Structural defects ...	...	...	...	190
Overcrowding. ...	...	...	...	33
Sanitation Surveys ...	...	...	...	393
Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	237
Cesspools ...	...	...	...	29
Water Supplies ...	...	...	...	377
Moveable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	81
Keeping of animals ...	...	...	...	14
Foul or verminous conditions...	...	...	...	35
Rodent Destruction ...	...	...	...	41
Food Premises ...	...	...	...	32
Unsound Food. ...	...	...	...	22
Slaughterhouses - meat inspection	...	...	...	387
- structural conditions.	...	...	...	73
Milk supplies ...	...	...	...	40
Infectious disease ...	...	...	...	156
Factories and workplaces ...	...	...	...	69
Refuse removal ...	...	...	...	93
Nightsoil collection..	...	...	...	55
Cesspool emptying ...	...	...	...	21
Salvage ...	...	...	...	25
Pollution of rivers, ditches and watercourses	...	...	...	99
Atmospheric pollution. ...	...	...	...	103

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3,011

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In addition 56 meetings of the Council, its various Committees and of other organisations, such as the County Joint Technical Committee and the Area Committee for Rodent Destruction, were attended.

## HOUSING

To meet the serious problem created by the continued deterioration of houses, some of which are ripe for demolition in the next five years but the remainder and vast majority of which will have to continue in occupation for many more years to come even if the provision of "improvements" is not a practicable proposition, legislation included in an Act entitled the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954 came into force at the end of August. It had been thought that its repercussions in this respect would be extensive but, although somewhat complicated,

its proposals have, in their practical application, been of limited benefit to the owners of those properties where the gross rateable value is low and the rental, even if increased to the statutorily permitted maximum, is still far from sufficient to meet the present day cost of repairs. Judgement can, of course, only be based on local experience, but unless the majority of landlords and tenants in this area have amicably agreed to impose and accept (respectively) the rent standards of the Act, the fact that up to the end of the year only one application was received from a tenant for a Certificate of Disrepair as the result of service of the notice of proposed increase by a landlord (an application which was granted by the Council) makes it appear that the provisions of the Act, insofar as they concern the adjustment of existing rents has fallen short of its objective.

One does not want to be considered unduly critical, as the subject is an extremely thorny one and not easy of solution on a basis of equity as between landlord and tenant, but it would appear now that an attempt has been made to tackle the problem, even ineffectively, the experience gained could be used in order to re-draft the legislation and to adopt another basis for assessment of rent.

Whether the introduction of the proposed amendment of rateable values for dwellinghouses, as visualised in the Rating and Valuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, will achieve what is necessary without the necessity for amending the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act - it being assumed that the former will in the majority of cases result in higher rateable values - remains to be seen.

The attendant publicity prior to as well as after the coming into force of the same Act has had a more satisfactory effect in connection with grants for the improvement of dwellinghouses than have the proposals in relation to rents. Although many applications are still found, on visiting the applicant and property concerned, to be for various reasons not a practicable proposition, there has been nevertheless an accentuation of interest in the Government's scheme and when it is considered that in the previous year only 2 applications could be regarded as worthy of submission to the Council and approved, the fact that in 1954 18 applications were similarly dealt with is good evidence of the success of this aspect of the Act.

Consideration having been given to dealing with those houses which are sufficiently sub-standard to warrant their being regarded as having outlived their usefulness as habitable accommodation in the twentieth century, we were able even some



years prior to the issue of the Government's White Paper "Houses the next step" to initiate a campaign for the demolition or closure of unfit properties by taking action in respect of appropriate houses which had been vacated, chiefly by persons who had been granted the tenancy of a Council house. This work was continued in 1954 and extended to include the worst properties in each Parish even though still occupied, and were it not for the setback caused by the departure of one of the District Sanitary Inspectors we would have been in a position to have exceeded the 14 properties dealt with during the year. Of these 14 action was taken in respect of 9 under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 - 5 demolition orders were made, 1 property was reconditioned in accordance with the Council's requirements, Undertakings to close for human habitation were accepted in respect of 2 and the ninth property was reported upon at the December meeting. In addition 5 Closing Orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Although it had been hoped, as has already been indicated, that the position regarding the repair of dwellinghouses would be eased by the introduction of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act, 1954, it has still been necessary to use discretion in the issue of Informal and Abatement Notices by confining attention to the more serious defects only. Even so difficulty has been, and still is, met in securing enforcement. The statistics relating to 1954 in connection with Informal and Abatement Notices were:-

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Abatement</u>
Outstanding at 31/12/53	53	5
Served during 1954	<u>21</u>	<u>-</u>
	74	5
Complied with during 1954	<u>36</u>	<u>5</u>
	38	-
Cancelled for re-service or Housing Act procedure	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>
Outstanding at 31/12/54	<u><u>33</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

The number of known cases of overcrowding in the area continues to fall slightly, although we are apparently approaching the position of having a "hard core" of cases to deal with in which the existing cottage is too small for the growing (and often, increasing) family, and the parents are unwilling or



unable to meet the rent of a Council house, sufficient other accommodation to relieve the overcrowding being unobtainable. Although 3 new cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year, 4 previously recorded cases were abated leaving 22 to be registered as existing at the end of December.

## SANITATION

At long last it can be recorded that one of the proposed sewerage schemes is coming into existence. It is true that progress has admittedly been slow in the early stages of the scheme at Debenham and, for a period at the end of the year, due to a combination of inclement weather and unfavourable subsoil conditions, the work had to be abandoned; but a start has been made and that in itself is a matter for satisfaction. The disposal and treatment plant was commenced at the end of June and the laying of the sewer in the main village was started in October. Having taken no active part in the formulation of the scheme after the original survey and report on existing conditions, it was assumed that it would be the sole concern of another Department and that our interest in the drainage of the various properties would only commence after final completion. It was rather a "bolt from the blue" to receive an enquiry after the sewer laying had commenced, as to what arrangements had been made in arranging with owners for connections to the sewer. Having satisfied ourselves that the enquiry was not misdirected we were able, thanks to Mr. Adams (first in an unofficial capacity and later as Clerk in the Department) and to Mr. Speirs and myself (in our official roles) to produce in a comparatively short period, having due regard to the multiplicity of our other duties, a complete list of all properties (dwellinghouses and other buildings) within a reasonable distance of the sewer together with the names of the occupiers and the names and addresses of the owners. With the preparation of a legal undertaking by the Clerk of the Council, owners should shortly be aware of the extent of their responsibilities and of the positive assistance which can be given by the Council. It will then be a question of response by the community who have in the past, been as anxious as the Council and its officials to see progress being made in the prosecution of its schemes. If it is felt that "no expense should be spared" in providing a Parish with the desirable amenities of a piped water supply and a sewerage scheme, the householder and his family should be equally anxious to see that the benefit is made available to their dwelling even though it may mean some sacrifice to provide the capital necessary to meet their commitments.

Despite the exceptionally inclement weather in the early part of the year a sanitation survey of Haughley village, Haughley New Street and Wetherden was carried out in order to provide facts and figures for a report to be submitted to the Ministerial

Inquiry into the proposed sewerage scheme for that portion of our area.

Whilst the task of assimilating, assessing and collating the mass of statistical detail provided me, and formulating a report from it, was in itself a somewhat difficult and complex task, I consider that the personal compliment expressed by the Ministry's Inspector for my report, although sincerely appreciated, could equally, and perhaps more justifiably, be extended to the two District Sanitary Inspectors (Messrs B. J. Davies and W. G. Lewis) for their contribution in obtaining the required information under sub-zero conditions.

## WATER SUPPLY

A total of 132 sources (either public or private) were sampled during the year. The summarised results in connection with the 168 samples analysed were:-

<u>Type of Supply</u>	<u>No. of Sources</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious or Unsatisfactory</u>
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### Council owned sources - Bacteriological

Mains	23	29	9
Borewells	44	43	4
Deep Wells	5	4	1
Shallow Wells	6	5	4

### Council owned sources - Chemical

Mains	3	3	-
Borewells	1	-	1
Shallow Wells	1	1	-

### Privately owned sources - Bacteriological

Mains	1	1	-
Borewells	17	20	6
Deep Wells	5	3	3
Shallow Wells	24	4	25
Springs	1	-	1

### Privately owned sources - Chemical

Borewells	1	1	-
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The chemical sample from a Council owned borewell was considered to be unsatisfactory due to its excessive salinity. There was no question of there being any harmful effects on health, but the supply could not be regarded as suitable for

drinking purposes. The original theory that there was probably a connection between the water bearing strata and the sea had to be discarded on the Analyst's conclusions that there was no evidence of infiltration by sea-water. One could, therefore, only assume that the strata from which the supply was obtained was of a type known as "cretaceous chalk" which is recognised as saline bearing. Fortunately the undertaking of the extensive and expensive treatment which would have been necessary to deal with the salinity was obviated by the installation during the year of a portion of the major water scheme in the Parish concerned and the consequent discontinuance of the borewell supply serving the affected property.

In addition 57 samples were taken from shallow and deep wells in order to ascertain the nitrate content and the suitability of the supply for consumption by children up to the age of twelve months in the event of artificial feeding being necessary. Provided notification is received in time these samples are taken during the ante-natal period in order that, in the appropriate cases, the parents are made aware as soon as possible that their source of water supply will be suitable or unsuitable for the infant. 25 of the samples taken were reported on analysis to be not safe for infant feeding.

1954 can be indelibly recorded in large figures in the history of the Gipping Rural District Council as the year in which the long awaited commencement of the major water scheme took place. I am indebted to the Resident Engineer, who supervised the work with forthright vigour, for the information that the work was commenced in Haughley on January 18th by the provision of a link between the existing local supply main at Haughley and the main from the Thingoe R. D. C. area which, passing through and serving the area of the Thedwastre R. D. C. en route, meets the boundary of the Gipping R. D. C. at Wetherden. As the result of the laying of a total length of 5 miles 220 yards the parishes of Haughley and Wetherden are now well served with a mains water supply available to the majority of the inhabitants of both parishes.

The Resident Engineer also informs me that on September 27th work was commenced at Ringshall by a connection with the main supply in the Cosford R. D. C. area, this again originating in the area of the Thingoe R. D. C. but from an entirely different source to that serving Wetherden and Haughley. In this case the work was more actively prosecuted than at Haughley and Wetherden and by the end of the year - 3 months working - 2 miles 280 yards of main had been laid in the parishes of Ringshall and Battisford and an additional  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles at Needham Market. The long-deserving parish of Needham Market will, therefore, celebrate its red-letter day for completion of a mains water supply sometime in 1955.



Sampling of existing supplies will continue for some time to be one of the main features of the Department's work, and it cannot be too strongly emphasised, that even when the whole of the scheme now in progress has been completed there will still remain a large number of properties which it will not be possible to connect to the mains water supply and which will perforce have to rely on other sources - some of these being completely unsatisfactory on bacteriological analyses. Although a great deal of legislation - some intended to remedy defects in previous Acts - has been passed in recent years, the maximum enforceable expenditure of £20 per house as laid down in Section 138 of the Public Health Act which was passed in 1936 still remains and the illogicality of such a figure in relation to post-war standards of cost appears to have escaped the attention of successive Governments and their advisers.

### FOOD

The Government's decision, at comparatively short notice, to end meat rationing and to permit the re-opening of private slaughterhouses placed the Department in a predicament, albeit temporary, that was even greater than occurred in the areas of many other authorities who found themselves slightly unprepared for the change-over. Fortunately a good deal of the preliminary work had been carried out by both District Sanitary Inspectors and myself before the departure of Mr. Lewis, but the five months gap in the staffing of the Department meant that a few of our normal duties (notably in connection with Housing Act inspections) had to be deferred and the rest undertaken at a greatly increased tempo in order to cope with the additional burden of meat inspection at the six private slaughterhouses which were in operation from July 3rd. Of the eight premises which the Council were prepared to license, subject to compliance with the standards laid down as a pre-requisite, the occupiers of two declined to undertake the necessary work of improvement and reconditioning and the premises were accordingly not licensed. Two applications to open new slaughterhouses were received but the first was rejected on submission to the Ministry of Food and the second was not proceeded with. Application was also made at a later date to re-open a slaughterhouse which had been licensed pre-war and, after an undertaking had been given to carry out necessary works, was approved but, to date, no further action has been taken by the applicant.

At the six private slaughterhouses which it was decided to license the following work was required to be carried out before it could be said that they were suitable for use:- In all six, walls were rendered; additional lighting (natural and artificial) and ventilation were provided; water was piped to a tap in the slaughterhouse; sinks were provided and all woodwork was painted. In five, hanging rooms were obtained by conversion of existing buildings and in one case a new building was provided. At four

of the premises floors were repaired, blood pits filled in and the drainage modified and in two cases it was necessary for the approach to be paved and drained. One premises was refitted with metal rails and runners.

It was only natural that a great deal of overtime on meat inspection had to be worked involving attendance at the slaughter-houses not only after office hours on week nights, but also on Saturday evenings and Sundays as well - none of this being recognisable by monetary reward or the unsatisfactory alternative, impossible in any case under the circumstances, of "time off in lieu". Even so our position could have been worse as it was not until after Mr. Speirs had commenced duties in October that the slaughtering at one premises which, unlike the other five had, up to that time, been negligible was suddenly and tremendously increased by the introduction of a contract for the wholesale slaughter of pigs for consumption outside the District. Although fully staffed by the end of the year overtime was, and still is, being worked by your Sanitary Inspectors in varying degrees and the time spent on meat inspection alone each week has been calculated as equivalent to one individual's normal working week of 38 hours.

The number of animals slaughtered up to 31st December, 1954 - all being examined for fitness was:-

Cattle: 2 Bulls; 247 bullocks; 69 cows;  
124 heifers and 11 calves - total 453.

Sheep: 10 sheep and 160 lambs - total 170.

Pigs: 1 boar; 2,808 pigs; 225 sows  
and 2 gilts - total 3,036.

making a total of 3,659 animals.

The number of visits made for the purpose of meat inspection was 387 as a result of which a total weight of 3 Tons, 5 cwt., 3 qrs., of unsound meat and offal was voluntarily surrendered. The items making up this total were:-

Cattle: 2 carcasses; 13 heads; 1 clod; 1 flank; 13 udders;  
1 loin; 2 skirts; 26 pairs of lungs; 2 hearts; 70  
livers; 10 mesenteries; 4 spleens; 4 stomachs and  
1 set of intestines.

Sheep: 25 pairs of lungs; 3 livers and 2 kidneys.



Pigs: 7 carcasses; 104 heads; 9 tongues; 6 flanks; 5 udders; 3 loins; 5 legs; 5 hocks; 299 pairs of lungs; 102 hearts; 133 livers; 47 kidneys; 14 spleens and 48 mesenteries.

1 of the bovine carcasses - a bullock - and 3 of the pig carcasses were condemned, together with all their offal, as the result of generalised tuberculosis. 1 cow carcass and 4 pig carcasses were similarly dealt with for other causes.

The statistics in relation to carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned is:-

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
(a) Tuberculosis	17	12	-	120
(b) Other causes	48	26	27	368

A brief summary of the "other causes" for condemnation discloses them to have been:-

Cattle: Distomatosis.  
(excluding cows)

Cows: Abscesses; Cirrhosis; Distomatosis; Metritis; Mastitis and Pneumonia.

Sheep and Lambs: Distomatosis; Strongylosis; Pneumonia.

Pigs: Arthritis; Cirrhosis; Nephritis; Pericarditis; Pneumonia; Pyelonephritis; Septic mastitis and Uraemia.

Of the 21 licences to slaughter animals which were in force up to the end of 1953, 15 were renewed on expiry and 5 were still valid up to the end of 1954 with 1 other valid up to 30th September, 1955. In addition 5 new licences were issued as the result of the resumption of private slaughtering. There were thus 26 slaughtermen officially licensed in the area in 1954.

With the ending of food controls the arrangement whereby surrender notes were given after notification and inspection of unsound foodstuffs was discontinued, but periodical visits continue to be made to food premises in connection with the investigation of the standard of food hygiene at particular premises, and advantage is taken of the opportunity to note the soundness of the food on display or in store. No evidence of unsound food on sale or in preparation or storage for sale has

been observed. In the period up to the end of food rationing surrender notes for the following articles were provided to various retailers:-

373 lbs. of beef; 1 bovine liver; 2 bovine kidneys; 21 lbs. of pork; 2 pig's carcasses and all offal; 1 sow's head and belly; 1 pig's head; 1 pig's flank; 1 pig's liver; 8½ lbs. of mutton; 2 - 6 lb. tins of corned beef; 2 - 4 lb. tins of luncheon meat; 2 - 1 lb. tins of luncheon meat; 52 lbs. of cheese and 14 lbs. of haddock.

4 premises were registered and 1 re-registered for the retail sale of ice cream, and 1 registered for the manufacture of sausages. The respective totals for ice cream and for other foods (sausages, cooked ham and brawn) was 38 and 5. No registration of fish frying premises was made in 1954 and two of the existing establishments discontinued business, reducing the number registered to 9.

Another achievement after many years of gradual progress - in this particular instance of national even more than local import - was the Government's decision that as from October 1st, 1954 the only raw milk permitted to be retailed was to be of tuberculin tested grade, other grades being pasteurised or sterilised at approved premises. The sale of pasteurised milk by can and dipper is now illegal and it is the responsibility of the pasteuriser to arrange for the milk to be placed in suitable containers (fitted with a cap or cover overlapping the lip and satisfactorily fastened) at his establishment and as soon as possible after pasteurisation. Retailers, therefore, can no longer buy pasteurised milk in bulk containers and bottle it at their own premises, but are obliged to purchase from their suppliers pre-packed pasteurised milk in bottles, cans or churns, sealed by the pasteuriser and containing the quantity of pasteurised milk required by their customers.

During 1954 the following licences were issued by the Council for the retail sale of milk in the area:-

Dealers' Licences: Tuberculin Tested grade - 4  
Pasteurised grade - 6

Supplementary Licences: Tuberculin Tested grade - 4  
Pasteurised grade - 7  
Sterilised grade - 1

## RODENT DESTRUCTION

It is, perhaps, not inappropriate that the section dealing with food is followed by one on rodent destruction for, while the estimates vary, it can be readily accepted that the loss to the nation's exchequer by the depredations of rats and mice on food supplies must amount to the incredibly fantastic sum of £50,000,000 per annum at the very least. The additional effect of diseases such as Weil's disease and typhi-murium attributable respectively to rats and mice justifies every effort being made to wipe out these vermin just as surely as myxomatosis has decimated if not eliminated the rabbit. One cannot accept with complacency the attitude of those who blandly declare "Oh! yes, we have a few rats about the place but they never cause us any trouble". Even where an occupier or owner of property is concerned regarding an infestation, it is sometimes found that the necessity for proceeding after clearance to proof against re-infestation is not always realised and appreciated.

Whilst the result of action during post-war years has certainly achieved a reduction in the rodent population much remains to be done before the menace can be regarded as being under control.

A report on the work of your part-time Rodent Operative and the effect of his activities is submitted annually to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Although the period covered is for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955, it can be regarded as a fair picture and comparable with the work done in the normal calendar year. The total number of separate properties inspected for rodent infestation (each property, irrespective of the number of re-visits for treatment or post-baiting, being regarded as one) was 736 and of these 257 were found to be infested - 250 by rats and 7 by mice; 7 of the rat infestations were of a major character and 4 of the infestations by mice could be similarly regarded. 251 of the 257 properties being private dwellinghouses, local authority's properties or business premises, were treated by the Rodent Operative, but only 2 of the 6 farms where infestation was discovered were so dealt with, the remainder being reported to and made the subject of a contract by the Agricultural Executive Committee's organisation. 2 of the local authority's properties - the refuse tip and the salvage depot were each made the subject of re-treatment, the refuse tip receiving six treatments and the salvage depot two; in addition 23 dwellinghouses and 6 business premises required a return visit for a second treatment.

The total "known kill" at the properties treated by the Rodent Operative in the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955 was 1,351 rats and 162 mice (the comparable figures for the calendar year 1954 were 1,285 rats and 163 mice).



Two extremely interesting meetings of the Area Committee for Rodent Control were held at Ipswich during the period under review and we were again fortunate in having, by unanimous consent, the services of Cllr. Rev. R. S. Shrubbs as Chairman. Many subjects of mutual interest and concern to the delegates were reported upon and discussed and the meetings being fairly representative and held at reasonably regular but well spaced intervals gives those attending an opportunity for referring to their experiences as a result of the practical application of items referred to at previous meetings or promoting a topic for discussion at a future meeting. The first meeting concluded with the showing of an American and a British film, both of which are used for propaganda to the general public in connection with rat destruction, and the report and discussion at the second meeting was followed by an illustrated lecture on the efficient rat-proofing of buildings, an aspect of the work which, as previously stated, is not given the attention it merits.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public Cleansing, involving household refuse removal and disposal, salvage collection, cesspool emptying and nightsoil collection, is one of a local authority's major responsibilities. It has been argued that the present structure of local government and of local authority boundaries is unsuited to a solution of its problems and the suggestion has been advanced, and meets with approval in certain quarters to the extent of formulating plans, for the grouping of authorities in the first instance, for refuse collection purposes. Even regarding this as either a pipe dream or an ideal for the future it is still apparent that on the method of disposal to be adopted under such a scheme there is wide variance of opinion between the constituent authorities in such a grouping regarding acceptance of either the high cost of incineration, the expense of land reclamation in the area, and for the benefit of another member authority, or of having the refuse from the areas of other authorities in the group deposited within the confines of their own particular district. The disposal of household refuse however we may choose to view it is an undertaking that has many unattractive characteristics and but a few dubious compensatory benefits, and despite what has been said it should not be forgotten that it is an essential service whose problems have to be squarely faced, not by unsympathetic and destructive criticism, but by careful forethought, application and strict supervision.

In this area the increase in housing accommodation since the commencement of the Council's direct control over the public cleansing service has resulted in the necessity for an increase in the number of employees although even now the work of refuse

removal, which for periodicity of collection and the number of bins emptied by a minimum of staff ranks favourably with the majority of comparable authorities, has only been undertaken by the fairly regular use of the "emergency vehicle" and the occasional working of overtime. When the "emergency vehicle" is brought into use the work can only be carried out by the withdrawal of labour from another section and the Council is fortunate in its Cleansing Foreman who has now had a number of years experience of the routine supervision and who has in a very capable and efficient manner always acted with promptitude in tiding over a difficult period in this or some other respect.

The only change in the staffing of the public cleansing service resulted from the resignation (due to his wife's prolonged illness) of our "old stalwart", Mr. J. Minns, who was employed on salvage baling and who, although a year or two over pensionable age was more active and energetic than many men of half his age. The vacancy created by his departure was filled by the transfer of one of the refuse loaders whose work was undertaken by a new employee. The latter has, since his appointment, passed his driving test and during the remainder of the year was, when necessary, also employed as relief driver of one or other of the vehicles.

The arrangements for the collection and disposal of nightsoil remain as in previous years, but with one of the larger parishes being provided with a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal at the present time its completion, and the consequent need for a reorganisation of the nightsoil collection scheme, should result in consideration being given to certain other parishes where such a service can be regarded as an urgent necessity. Whether this is to be achieved by the present system of the expenditure on nightsoil collection being borne by the parish concerned or whether the cost should become a charge on the general rate is a question for investigation and decision by the Council and its appropriate Committees, but as this is a matter of policy which does not concern the technical administration of the service it would be neither apt nor wise for me to provide an expression of opinion. During the year the continued availability of the service to the Ipswich Corporation in respect of that part of its area which was formerly in the Parish of Bramford and to the East Suffolk County Council by the collection of nightsoil from Stowupland School and Schoolhouse resulted in the emptying of a total equivalent of 13,726 pails in the County Borough and 378 for the County Council.

494 cesspools, a well, a pond, two sawpits at a timber yard and more than 30 loads of sludge from the Haughley sewage plant were dealt with by the men employed on the cesspool emptying vehicle. Throughout the year the minimum charge remained at



£1. 13. 6d payable in advance - an amount which will be reconsidered in 1955 as it is believed that it does not cover the period for which it is made, that is the first two hours of each job from the time the team leave the depot until their return, any time in excess of the minimum being charged at 16/9d per hour calculated to the nearest quarter hour and is the subject of a subsequent account submitted to the hirer of the vehicle by the Treasurer. Of the 494 cesspools emptied, 139 were on private premises and 355 at Council houses or other property owned by the Council. Of the 947 loads removed, 375 were discharged at the Stowmarket sewage plant and 200 into the Ipswich sewerage system.

The collection and baling of salvage continues to be a commodity providing a comparatively small but valuable financial return to the Council and, since it came rather late in the year - at the end of October - the decision of the firm to which our wastepaper is supplied to raise the price of the mixed papers grade by 10/- per ton had no appreciable effect in the increased return from wastepaper for 1954 (£526. 18. 7d) as compared with the amount received in 1953 (£409. 0. 3d). The decision to make another increase in the price for the same grade as from 1st January, 1955 will, if it continues throughout the year, be greatly appreciated and, it is hoped, provide a further rise over the figures for previous years. The salvage baler and salvage trailer both of which had provided loyal service for a number of years - the former since 1947 and the latter from 1949 - had to be discarded and replaced during the year.

In addition to the return from wastepaper, the sale of rags and metal also provided additional revenue and again there was an increase shown in the return over that for the previous year (£28. 1. 6d as compared with £12. 12. 9d). Details of the amount sold and money received in respect of each material are as follows:-

	Tons Cwts.Qrs. lbs.				£	s	d
Mixed papers etc.	26	17	3	0	177	14	2
Fibreboard Containers	13	0	0	0	117	0	0
Books and Magazines	10	17	2	0	92	8	10
Newspapers	14	14	1	0	139	15	7
Rags	1	0	3	14	17	9	0
Scrap Iron	1	0	2	0	3	5	0
Non-ferrous metals		3	3	18	7	7	6
	67	14	3	4	£555.	0.	1d



